



## Fact Sheet

# Environmental Investigation at Allen Fossil Plant

*TVA's Allen reservation is located on more than 500 acres in Shelby County, Tennessee. The site houses an active coal plant and a natural gas plant under construction. TVA purchased the fossil plant from Memphis Light Gas and Water in 1984. The site is named for Thomas Allen, a former president of MLGW.*

### **Background**

Earlier this year, a few shallow groundwater monitoring wells near the Allen Fossil Plant East Ash Pond showed elevated levels of arsenic and other contaminants. These wells are used to sample groundwater as part of TVA's plan to close its wet ash storage areas at Allen. As part of our commitment to public safety and environmental stewardship, we are working at the direction of TDEC to investigate the nature and extent of this issue.

### **Key Points**

- TVA is committed to the health and safety of the community, our employees and the environment.
- We are committed to work with TDEC on the environmental investigation to determine the nature and extent of the problem and do our share to clean it up.
- Drinking water at the plant, and throughout Memphis, is not impacted by the issues at Allen. This is reinforced by TDEC and local health officials, and confirmed by the testing of the water supply by MLGW.
- MLGW's recent water supply sampling showed there are no detectable levels of arsenic or lead in the drinking water supply.
- TVA is conducting its investigation under the direction of TDEC's Remediation Division to find the source of the contamination.
- TVA has contracted with experts from the U.S. Geological Survey and University of Memphis to map the underlying geology and learn more about the movement of groundwater at the site.
- TVA is installing additional permanent monitoring wells around the coal ash storage area.
  - These wells will vary from 20 to 160 feet underground.
  - The wells are being installed next to the wells that showed high levels of arsenic, lead and fluoride.
  - The information from these wells will tell us how far down any contamination has penetrated.
- The remedial investigation will take several months.
- Though these wells are not drinking water wells, any substance found in groundwater monitoring wells above maximum drinking water levels will be reported to TDEC, as TVA did in this situation.

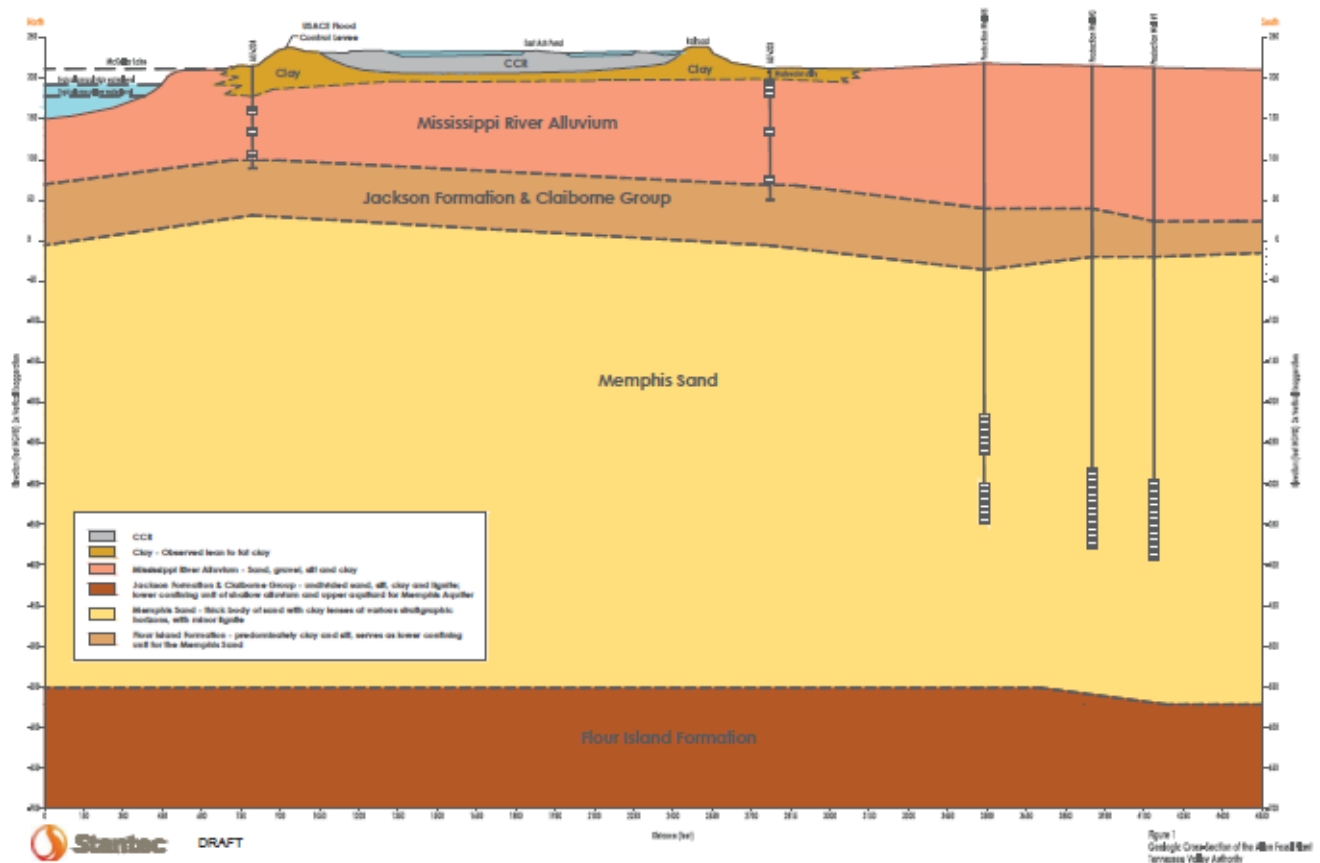
**Aug. 21, 2017**



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This illustration shows the relative depths of the shallow monitoring wells at Allen Fossil Plant (on the left and middle) and the depths of the production wells into the Memphis Sand Aquifer at the gas plant (on the right), as well as the layers of clay and other geology in between.



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